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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONIN-KLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): AMIELH CAPRI-OGLIO, Myriam [FR/FR]; 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR). DEVILLERS, Sylvain [FR/FR]; 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR). MIREUX, Patrice [FR/FR]; 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR).

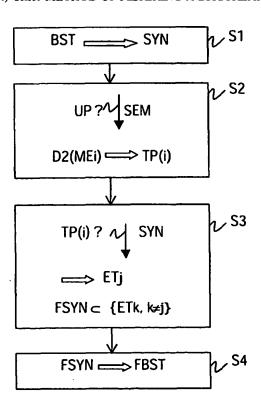
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(54) Title: METHOD OF FILTERING A BITSTREAM ACCORDING TO USER SPECIFICATIONS



(57) Abstract: The invention proposes a method of filtering a bitstream according to user specifications. The proposed method uses a semantic description and a syntactical description of the bitstream. The semantic description is scanned to select the elementary units that match the user specification. The time is used as a linking mechanism between the semantic description and the syntactical description to locate the elements of the syntactical description that are to be removed. A filtered syntactical description is generated by removing the located elements. Finally, a filtered bitstream is generated from the filtered syntactical description.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



# A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04N7/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 HO4N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:      "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance      "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date      "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)      "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means      "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>'&amp;' document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search  10 November 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report  19/01/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL − 2280 HV Rijswljk  Tel. (+31−70) 340−2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  Fax: (+31−70) 340−3016	Authorized officer  Fassnacht, C



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